

## ***From the President –***

Dear SRBR Members,

It is a pleasure to introduce this second issue of the SRBR Newsletter. First, I would like to thank our past President, Martha Gillette, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Society. Not only was our last scientific meeting at Sandestin a resounding success, but under Martha's leadership, the SRBR is vibrant, and many new initiatives have been launched. Martha has described these efforts below. I would like to say "Bravo! What an incredible job!" to Martha, the Executive Board, the Program Committee, and the SRBR Membership for all of their work over the last two years.



I feel extremely fortunate to have become President of SRBR with the Society in such fine shape. In addition to continuing the efforts that have been ongoing such as the new SRBR website, the Chronohistory Project, and the Trainee Professional Development Day, we have appointed a new Committee on Bylaws and Incorporation which is chaired by Michael Nitabach. This effort, which was initiated by Bill Schwartz when he was President, has produced a revision to the SRBR Bylaws and has set a trajectory for incorporation of the Society in the future.

Finally, I would like to welcome the members of the new Executive Board: President-Elect Mick Hastings, Secretary Rebecca Prosser, Treasurer Paul Hardin, Board Members-at-Large Horacio de la Iglesia, Erik Herzog and Alena Sumova. I look forward to working with all of you and the SRBR Members to continue to build, foster and promote the vitality of our unique Society.

Joe Takahashi, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Takahashi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent 'J' and 'T'.

## ***SRBR 2008: President's Meeting Report***

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms convened at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Destin, Florida May 17-21, 2008. Our SRBR 2008 Biennial Meeting was notable on several levels.

First, participation in the meeting and in the Society experienced remarkable growth, reflecting a surge of interest in rhythms research from experimental and clinical scientists. The breadth and

depth of subjects addressed in the abstracts this year indicate that our field is growing both from within and via immigration, with recognition of the importance of rhythms research to other fields. Remarkably, the 2008 registration topped out at 584, a 24% increase from the 2006 meeting! Unsolicited abstracts (not including the invited program) were up ~37%! Membership increased, too: at the time of the meeting the number of members had grown by 17% compared with December, 2006, the end of the last meeting year.

The increase in number of participants put considerable pressure on conference facilities, because our projected maximum was 500. Nevertheless, the leadership, flexibility and nimbleness of Ravi Allada, our program chair, Shelley Tischkau, our facilities chair, Michelle Chappell, our meeting coordinator, other staff from Conferences & Institutes, and the conference center personnel enabled us to accommodate the unanticipated numbers at meeting time. We are deeply grateful to them for rising to the challenge. My guess is that few of you noticed that we had so exceeded our expectations and achieved this level of growth!

Second, before the meeting began on Saturday, May 17, we offered our first Trainee Professional Development Day. Organized by Ken Wright, Jr. and his committee, ‘Trainee Day’ was open to trainees of all levels, and attracted ~120 participants. Sessions were led by faculty whose presentations ranged from how to choose a postdoctoral mentor to grantsmanship to peer review and publishing to circadian techniques. Trainees rotated through four topic sessions of their choice. Lunch was provided by Mini-Mitter/Respiroics. Ken and his Trainee Research Awards Committee bestowed Research Excellence/Merit Awards on trainees whose meeting abstract was judged to be highly meritorious. Major funding was provided by a conference grant from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases & Stroke/ National Institutes of Health (USA). “Meet the Professor” opportunities were scheduled throughout the meeting.

Concurrently, our first satellite symposia convened. *The Importance of Melatonin to Research in Biological Rhythms: A Symposium in Remembrance of Aaron Lerner, Discoverer of Melatonin*, organized by Jo Arendt and Al Lewy, attracted an international group of experts. Partial support for this symposium was provided by Stockgrand, Ltd. The second satellite meeting led by John Hogenesch was a small, focus group with common interests in the systems biology of biological rhythms.

Third, the meeting officially began with the Opening Reception on The Grand Lawn under a full moon. During the festivities, I announced the newly elected members of the SRBR Executive Board, to serve with President Joe Takahashi (2008-2010): President-Elect Mick Hastings, Secretary Rebecca Prosser, Treasurer Paul Hardin, Board Members-at-Large Horacio de la Iglesia, Erik Herzog and Alena Sumova. They assumed their new positions at the Business Meeting at the meeting’s end and are serving you now.

Fourth, the Program was outstanding. We are greatly indebted to Ravi Allada and his Program Committee as well as to YOU – the presenters – for its cutting-edge nature and diversity. The Program included invited symposium talks, short ‘hot-topic’ presentations selected from submitted abstracts, three evening poster sessions, and special lectures/symposia. Presentations were notable for their high quality and discovery! Ueli Schiebler delivered the Pittendrigh/Aschoff lecture, “*The Mammalian Circadian Timing System: From Gene Expression to Metabolism*”. The Presidential Symposium considered new and emerging views of circadian clocks based on analyzing the ‘how to fix a broken radio’ concept to understand the existing disparity between the effort of biological research and its meaningful outcome (Lazebnik),

systems biology approaches to discover the architecture and mechanisms of clocks from the organism to the intracellular level (Kay), and circadian disruptions as unrecognized critical determinants of cardiovascular and renal health (Sole). At the Presidential Symposium, I presented Founding SRBR President Fred Turek with the first SRBR Distinguished Service Award for his vision and dedication on behalf of us all!

Fifth, our committees significantly advanced the business of the Society. The Executive Board and various committees, as well as the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Biological Rhythms*, met over the course of our days in Sandestin. We learned that Sage Publishers will increase the size of the JBR by 20 pages/issue, a sign of the success of our journal under the leadership of Editor Marty Zatz with positive consequences for us all. The ChronoHistory Committee Chair Anna Wirz-Justice arranged to film a number of presentations and interviews. An exceptional highlight was the official launch of our new website <<http://www.srbr.org/>> by Frank Scheer, chair of the Communications Committee, during the Business Meeting. He logged right on during his report and demonstrated the new website's capabilities. What a climax to the meeting's achievements!!! Last, but by no means least, at our Closing Banquet, Aschoff's Rule again was transferred to a chronobiologist from another country and studying a different model organism than Mick Hastings, who had held it since the 2007 Chronobiology Gordon Conference. Michael Rosbash is the new guardian of The Rule!

In addition to NINDS and the three corporations mentioned above, our sponsors include Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Merck Research Laboratories, and Cell Press. We are deeply grateful to each of them for their engagement and generous support.

As I conclude this report, I find myself reflecting on the personal fulfillment that serving the SRBR has brought me. Together with my Executive Board (President-Elect Joe Takahashi, Secretary Dave Weaver, Treasurer Amita Sehgal, Members-At-Large Charlotte Helfrich-Foerster, Martha Merrow, and Iggy Provencio and Ex Officio Members Past President Bill Schwartz, Editor Marty Zatz and Comptroller Larry Morin) and your own individual contributions, we achieved the goals of convening the Society – to bring together researchers and their research on all aspects of biological rhythms to exchange information and ideas. I have no doubt that you, too, are a beneficiary of the enlightenment that comes from great presentations and discussions exposed to the sun, sand and sea breeze. The challenges are ever greater as our discipline grows and matures, as are the rewards.

*Martha U. Gillette*  
*President, SRBR, 2006-2008*  
*Past President, 2008-2010*

## Trainee Program Pictures

One of the highlights of the 2008 SRBR meeting was the first Trainee Professional Development Day. In addition, “Meet the Professor” opportunities were also a part of trainee events at this year’s meeting. Below are some pictures taken from trainee events:



Trainee Day organizing committee:  
from left to right: back, Mike Muskus, Beth Klerman, Ken Wright (Chair), Marian Comas, Luciano Marpegan; front, Dave Weaver, Stephanie Crowley, Nico Cermakian. Not pictured: Ozgur Tataroglu.

## “Meet the Professor Sessions”





All pictures were provided by Beth Klerman and the Trainee Day committee. More details and more pictures are coming soon to the SRBR web site. Check them out at [www.srbr.org](http://www.srbr.org)

# ***Aschoff's Rule's Relay***

At the 2007 Gordon Conference on Chronobiology in Aussois, France, I was astonished. Anna Wirz-Justice, the holder of Aschoff's Rule, announced at the conference banquet that she was passing the Rule to someone who was a bar-fly come lounge-lizard and who had once knocked her into the River Cam on a punting trip..... Never have I been so flattered; she meant me, even though I only recognised myself in two of the three clues! A year of delight and psycho-torment lay ahead.

Aschoff's Rule is intriguing (<http://www.srbr.org/Pages/AschoffRule.aspx>). The current holder presents it to someone whom he/she feels has made a notable contribution to chronobiology, but with the stipulation that the successor should work in a country and on an organism different from those of the holder. It is deliberately inter-disciplinary, international and also carries all of the strengths and complications of a personal, *ad hominem* award. Traditionally, it is passed on at the alternating SRBR and Gordon Chronobiology meetings.

On my evening I had already enjoyed a *very* social dinner, and was planning an early retirement to ease my tired mind and liver. Alas, Anna's citation compelled me to go down to the bar where a cheesy 70's disco beat and a tad of vino collapso got me grooving. Unbeknownst to me my dinner chum, Bambos Kyriacou, was there, lurking with his videocam. Accomplished as he in convincing editors that a silk purse is a pig's ear, he only needed few hours of post-hoc analysis on the resulting footage to get one of his most highly cited papers, published last November in the *Journal of Movement Disorders and Dysmelodia*.

The next morning I proudly wrapped the Rule in a crisp white Aussois tablecloth and set off for the airport, finally checking in my luggage. Arrival in London brought alarm- the suitcase tumbled down the trackway looking as though it had just been kicked across the tarmac by the biggest wannabe Beckham of all time. The lock had been cut off, everything rifled around and my smalls were on display to all. Then it clicked- the brass plaque holding the Rule must have cast some sinister shadow on a security scanner and the secret services had rumbled me as Osama's cousin or the like. No explanation was ever given and it made me realise the potential I had to really cock-up. What if I lost the Rule? The saddo disco-dancing I could face up in public, even on Pubmed, but to break the Aschoff chain?

On return to the lab I put the Rule onto a shelf so that all of the endocytosis people (my neighbours) would have to walk by it. I eagerly awaiting their curious questions, but because endocytosis is more.....yawn....sleep-inducing than the ventrolateral preoptic area, they just somnambulated by. Then anxiety crept in again. What if some dipstick grad student got the idea (grad students do ideate, apparently) that it would be funny to nick the Rule? I tore down the corridor to the engineering workshop and arranged that they make a security display case out of Perspex to hold the precious cargo securely to the lab wall. I am pleased to say this did the trick and Hastings' All-Purpose Plastic Utility Box has now been passed on to be forever entwined in a love-match with Aschoff's Rule.

And then the final anxiety started to grow- the big one. Who should I give it to at SRBR? You can't just hand it over to your mates, especially when you only have one mate and he's already received it over a decade earlier. What will my choice say about me, what will it say about my (mis)appreciation of all things chronobiological- I am, after all, a hairy-arsed bucket and spade marine ecologist who's gate-crashed the party. There's nothing for it- I realised that the true gift

of the Rule is that it forces you to think seriously for once. Who created the conceptual landscape on which I dither about? Who designed the intellectual playground that I treat as a sandpit? Michael Rosbash. I was equally glad and saddened to part with the object- relief mixed with regret. I'm sure Michael will bring his own sentiment to the process. I wish him well in his tenure.

Mick Hastings

## ***Ashoff's Rulers***

<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Prizewinner</i></b>	<b><i>Country</i></b>	<b><i>Experimental Creature</i></b>	<b><i>Meeting</i></b>
<b>1991</b>	Maroli K. Chandrashekeran	India	bat	GRC
<b>1992</b>	Jeffrey C. Hall	USA	drosophila	SRBR
<b>1993</b>	Johanna H. Meijer	The Netherlands	rat	GRC
<b>1994</b>	Stephan Michel	Germany	bullae	SRBR
<b>1995</b>	Takao Kondo	Japan	cyanobacteria	GRC
<b>1996</b>	Jennifer J. Loros	USA	neurospora	SRBR
<b>1997</b>	Charalambos P. Kyriacou	UK	drosophila	GRC
<b>1998</b>	Till Roenneberg	Germany	gonyaulax	SRBR
<b>1999</b>	Michael Menaker	USA	birds	GRC
<b>2000</b>	Sato Honma	Japan	rat	SRBR
<b>2001</b>	Charles A. Czeisler	USA	humans	GRC
<b>2002</b>	Serge Daan	The Netherlands	rodents	SRBR
<b>2003</b>	Charlotte Helfrich-Förster	Germany	drosophila	GRC
<b>2004</b>	Martha Merrow	The Netherlands	neurospora	SRBR
<b>2005</b>	Martin Zatz	USA	chicken	GRC
<b>2006</b>	Anna Wirz-Justice	Switzerland	humans	SRBR
<b>2007</b>	Michael Hastings	UK	Mice	GRC
<b>2008</b>	Michael Rosbash	USA	drosophila	SRBR

## *ChronoHistory*

The SRBR Board has designated a Committee on ChronoHistory charged with identifying, evaluating, recommending and implementing initiatives and mechanisms to ensure preservation of the history of our discipline, Chronobiology. The relative youth of our field and its growth and richness are counter-balanced by the aging and loss of founders and early contributors.



Colin Pittendrigh and Jürgen Aschoff; the Ringberg Meeting on Circadian Rhythms, 1980

## *Call to SRBR members*

**The SRBR Committee on ChronoHistory** invites SRBR members and others in the field to help us identify aspects of our brief history of physiologic time. We solicit your input regarding ideas, wishes, and ways the history may be used. While most members of the field currently focus on circadian rhythms, we intend to include the history of the study of all biological rhythms of any time scale.

There are three main tasks:

1. to find a scholarly and accessible depository for paper archives (e.g. the Pittendrigh and Aschoff legacies), with funding to maintain them.
2. to develop the historical record and a comprehensive website.
3. to collate and make films of the history of chronobiology ideas and the people involved.

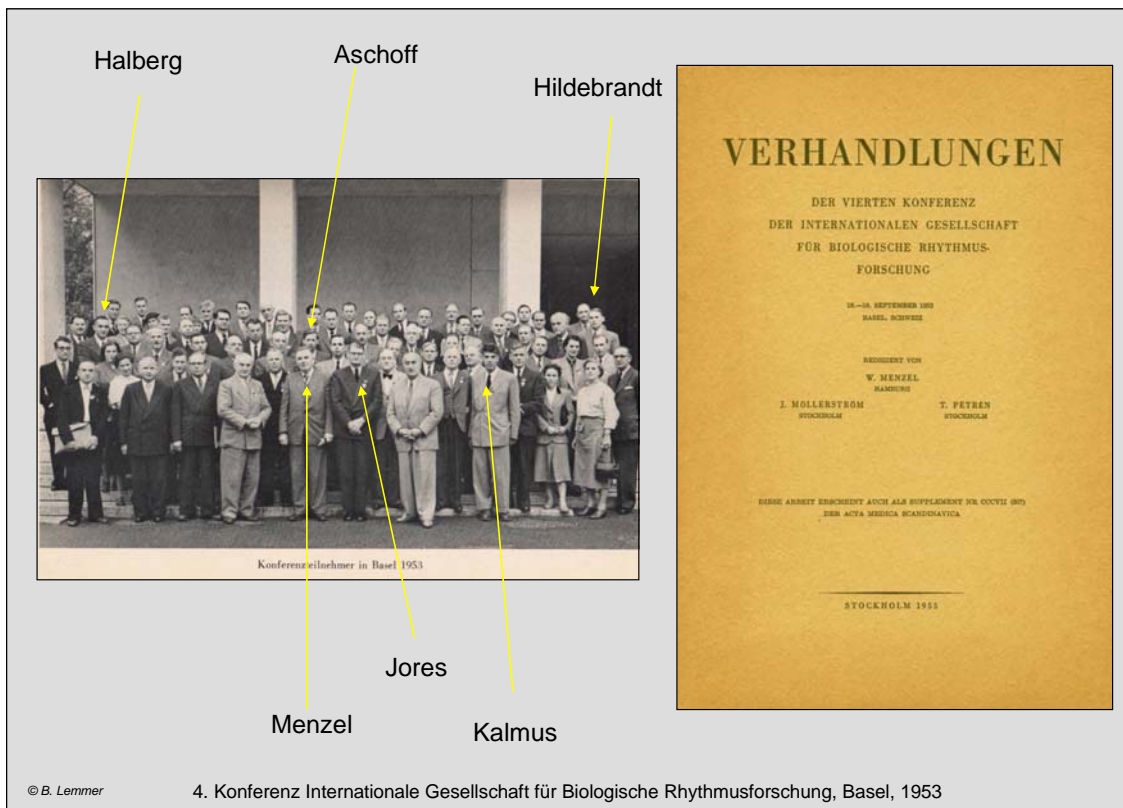
## *We need your active participation!*

1. If you have photos or other items from meetings and of individuals in the field of biological rhythms that appear to be of historical interest – please scan them and submit with simple consistent labelling (e.g., identification of people, occasion, year).

Jeff Elliot, Fred Turek and Joe Takahashi; the Ringberg Meeting on Circadian Rhythms, 1980



- If you have essays or old documents about chronobiology, please submit with complete identification (year, authors, where presented or published)



- If you have videotapes, films, DVDs, or audiotapes, please let us know. Over the years salient figures in our history have been interviewed, and TV or teaching films have been made. We plan to (a) create a list of audio and visual materials and where they can be accessed and (b) establish a library. For this, we need good copies transcribed on DVD, with source information to check copyright status. We intend to continue interviewing individuals for new films.
- If you have any other information to contribute to the project, please let us know. For the SRBR-ChronoHistory website, we are collaborating with an exceptional group of computer scientists under Professor Eduardo Mendoza from the Munich Systems Biology Forum and the University of the Philippines Dilliman. The platform they have created is the EUCLock Information System (EUCLIS) (see below). This allows us to collate and make accessible the very large files of films and photos and other types of materials that we hope will be gathered.

The ChronoHistory website is at the moment only a draft – with your input it will grow and develop in depth and usefulness. We look forward to your comments ([anna.wirz-justice@unibas.ch](mailto:anna.wirz-justice@unibas.ch)) and contributions, which should be sent directly to the webmaster ([clockhelp@rzg.mpg.de](mailto:clockhelp@rzg.mpg.de)).

**Signed, the SRBR Committee on ChronoHistory**

Anna Wirz-Justice (Chair), Jo Arendt, Eric Bittman, Serge Daan, Pat Decoursey, Jeff Hall, Woody Hastings, Beth Klerman, Mike Menaker, Marty Zatz  
**Summer 2008**

## *What the SRBR link to EUCLIS offers ALL chronobiologists*

EUCLIS <http://www.bioinfo.mpg.de/euclis/>

Although developed within the framework of the EU programme EUCLOCK, many aspects of this infrastructure are open to all chronobiologists. The four current modules are: ChronoHistory (Clock Museum, Clock Images, Clock Family Trees), Clock Tools, Clock Genes and Clock References.

**ChronoHistory** aims to document the development of chronobiology through a collation of digitized materials associated with landmarks in the field. Currently, it forms a special collection in the **Clock Museum** module, where collections of slideshows, images, user-contributed notes and links to references are stored. This platform enables members of the chronobiology community to add their collections of photographs, videos, essays, references and anecdotes on important landmarks and people in chronobiology history. EUCLIS also gives users the option to restrict the visibility of their respective collections to a select group of colleagues, or to make the collection publicly available. The current version of Chronohistory features landmarks from the Roenneberg and Mellow article “Timeline: Circadian clocks - the fall and rise of physiology”.

We encourage SRBR members to contribute to this effort through the submission of photographs, texts and/or anecdotes, references and other multimedia files which will be hosted in the EUCLIS framework. Members should register to use the facilities in **Clock Museum** and related modules, **Clock Images** and **Clock References**, to upload, create and organize collections for Chronohistory, to create slideshows, and to restrict the visibility of their contributions to a selected user group.

**Clock Family Trees** is interactive, and updated from Beth Klerman’s original Family Trees of chronobiologists created for the 2004 SRBR meeting. It allows chronobiologists to input information on their scientific genealogy, specifically their PhD advisors (chronoparents), their PhD advisees (chronochildren) and related information.

The **Clock Genes** module allows access to references and data such as the repository for confirmed and putative genes involved in circadian rhythms in model organisms, *Neurospora crassa*, *Synechococcus*, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Mus musculus*, and *Homo sapiens*.

**Clock References** offers a repository of bibliographic entries, particularly Endnote files, and hard-to-access documents such as old manuscripts and PhD theses. Registered users may export selected bibliographic entries to an EndNoteXML file.

**Clock Tools** is a repository of software tools used in chronobiology for analyzing and simulating experimental data and producing graphs and pictures.

**To ensure the quality of material within ChronoHistory, the content of contributions for public collections will be curated by the ChronoHistory committee of the SRBR.**

**To access ChronoHistory, please register with EUCLIS (<http://bioinfo.mpg.de/euclis/>).**

## ***From the Newsletter Editor -***

I hope you have enjoyed this second issue of the SRBR newsletter, highlighting the SRBR biennial meeting. Thanks to all who contributed essays and pictures. The next issue of the newsletter is planned for early in 2009. If you have any news or would like to submit an essay for publication in the newsletter, the deadline for submission for the next newsletter is January 15, 2009. Please submit your materials to me at [stischkau@siumed.edu](mailto:stischkau@siumed.edu). If you have ideas for items you would like to see addressed in the Newsletter, send those along to me as well. Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind all of you about the forum on the new SRBR website. Forum is a place to post position openings, as well as to discuss ideas. For example, right now on the forum, you will find two postdoctoral positions advertised. For now, I have included these items here in the Newsletter, but in the future, please check the forum for this kind of information. As always, any feedback you have on the Newsletter is welcomed!



Shelley Tischkau -- Newsletter Editor

## ***The Forum at [www.srbr.org](http://www.srbr.org)***

### Posting 1

Postdoctoral position in circadian biology and learning and memory A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the lab of Dr. Lisa C. Lyons at Florida State University (Department of Biological Science, Program in Neuroscience) to investigate circadian modulation of leaning and memory in *Drosophila melanogaster*. We are interested in the identification of the mechanisms through which the circadian clock affects learning and memory using *Aplysia* and *Drosophila* as model organisms. Located in the state capitol of Tallahassee (north central Florida), Florida State University is a Carnegie Research 1 university with more than 41,000 students (undergrad, graduate, medical and law students). The Program in Neuroscience is a highly interactive, interdepartmental program comprised of more than 30 faculty members, with strong interests in learning and memory. The Program in Neuroscience offers weekly seminars and journal clubs as well as an annual multiple day workshop/symposium on a featured topic. The Department of Biological Science at Florida State University has more than 40 active research labs and offers a wide variety of departmental seminars and journal clubs. The department has its own core facilities to support faculty research including analytical laboratory, DNA sequencing lab, hybridoma lab, microarray facility, molecular cloning lab and confocal imaging facility. The postdoctoral position has funding available for at least 2 years. Highly motivated individuals with a Ph.D. in neuroscience, biochemistry or molecular biology and a sound publication record are encouraged to apply. A thorough understanding of *Drosophila* genetics and circadian biology is necessary for this position. Experience with immunohistochemistry, confocal and fluorescence microscopy, and molecular biology is preferred. Interested candidates please send curriculum vitae and cover letter for three references via email. For additional information, please contact Lisa Lyons. Email: [lyons@bio.fsu.edu](mailto:lyons@bio.fsu.edu) Phone: 850-645-8255.

Posting 2

## **Postdoctoral and Ph.D. positions**

### **Molecular mechanisms underlying circadian rhythms and sleep**

Postdoctoral fellow and Ph.D. student positions are available, to study molecular mechanisms underlying circadian rhythms and sleep, in particular the circadian control of immune functions and the regulation of orexin receptors.

Selected candidates will work under the supervision of Dr. Nicolas Cermakian, Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Chronobiology, at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute and McGill University. The Douglas Institute is one of the leading mental health research institutions in Canada, while McGill University is a world-renowned university. More information about the laboratory can be found at: <http://ncermakianlab.mcgill.ca>.

Highly motivated candidates with strong background in molecular/cellular biology and/or chronobiology and/or immunology should send a letter of presentation and their CV (including contact information for references) to Dr. Cermakian ([nicolas.cermakian@mcgill.ca](mailto:nicolas.cermakian@mcgill.ca)). Applicants for a Ph.D. student position should also send an academic transcript for relevant previous studies.